

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 8-19 were examined. All claims were rejected as being anticipated by the '572 patent to Lam et al. and/or the '526 patent to Limon et al. Such rejections are traversed in part and overcome in part.

Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Applicant has chosen to expedite prosecution of the present invention by directing the claims toward a preferred embodiment as described in the specification at page 21 and in Figs. 22A-22E. In particular, both independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the prosthesis is coated over its entire length with a radiopaque material and that the radiopaque material is thicker at at least one of the ends of the prosthesis. The prosthesis comprises a stainless steel core (claim 1) or other radiolucent core (claim 8), so that the selected radiopacity is provided by the variation in thickness of the radiopaque coating.

Neither of the newly-cited references nor other art of record herein suggests such selective coating of radiopaque material over the entire length of the stent or other prosthesis in order to achieve a desired radiopacity profile. Thus, it is believed that all claims now pending distinguish the art and are in condition for allowance.

It is further noted that the above amendments are made without prejudice to refiling claims of a broader and/or different scope in subsequent related applications.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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